

From: Jules Feldmann
To: Microsoft ATR
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TO: Renata B. Hesse
U.S. Department of Justice

In 1976, I purchased a computer to use in my business. It was an IBM and I was forced to use their proprietary "operating system." Application programs for this computer were limited as to vendors because each vendor had to develop their software for use on a specific machine or operating system.

When Microsoft entered the scene, they utilized an "open architecture" approach allowing their "operating system" to utilize any brand of computer. Because their "operating system" was not specific to a particular hardware brand, the software application developers were able to write application programs that would work on any computer running the DOS operating system. Because of this "open architecture" we consumers were given the choice of many more computer hardware manufacturers, rather than being limited to the manufacture's computer that ran our intended application.

There are several operating systems available that offer an alternative to MS DOS or Windows.

Microsoft has been a boon to the small business computer user and to the U.S economy as well.

The government's antitrust activities directed at Microsoft has damaged our economy to a much greater extent than leaving Microsoft to the forces of a free market.

I believe in free markets and I am convinced that a new competitor would have eventually developed a challenge to Microsoft by offering a viable alternative.

It is time for the government to stop pursuing this destructive course of antitrust prosecution. Accept the settlement and let the industry move forward.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns.

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